

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 November at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs J Armstrong, S Berlyn, A Chapman, G Chapman, P Churchouse, B Hallett, M Hessing, A Keeler, L Naggs, N Orange and P Sutton

In attendance: Ms M Harper (Clerk)

### **23/24.61 Apologies for absence**

None

### **23/24.62 Declarations of Interest**

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

Cllrs Armstrong, A Chapman and Hessing declared a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 23/24.68 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cllr Armstrong declared a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 23/24.69 Hammonds Road Campaign

### **23/24.63 Public Question Time**

Members of the public are invited to address the Council, give their views and question the Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration (at the discretion of the Chairman). Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself. At the close of this item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 5 minutes. Members of the public should address their representation through the Chairman of the meeting.

There were no members of the public present

### **23/24.64 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held 27 September 2023**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 September 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record

### **23/24.65 Reports from Committees**

#### *23/24.65.1 Community Engagement Committee*

23/24.65.1.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted

23/24.65.1.2 Cllr Hallett provided an update on the Christmas Market which had been very well attended and thanks were given to the staff, councillors and volunteers who helped. Councillors were requested to send in any feedback to the Clerk. Cllr Hallett also provided an update on the Christmas Tree Lighting event being held on Friday 1 December.

#### *23/24.65.2 Environment Committee*

23/24.49.2.1 The minutes of the meeting as published were noted. Cllr A Chapman advised that the last meeting had been an extra ordinary meeting regarding commissioning a woodland management plan and that a meeting was to be held on 5 December to consider the implications

#### *23/24.65.3 Facilities Committee*

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr G Chapman noted that the committee had agreed to continue subsidising bowling, cricket and football and that cricket would continue to be played on Dawson Memorial Field until at least 2028

#### *23/24.65.4 Health & Wellbeing Committee*

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr Hallett noted that the Health & Wellbeing Fairs would be held at the Leisure Centre in April and September next year. Cllr Hallett provided an update on the e-consult system at the medical centre and the Clerk requested to raise a query with the surgery on the communications with the village regarding procedures and processes

#### **23/24.65.5      Leisure Centre Committee**

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted.

#### **23/24.65.6      Planning Committee**

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr Hessing noted that the licencing application meeting had been held in relation to Twitty Fee and the licence granted. Cllr Hessing advised that it was anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would be submitted to Chelmsford City Council (CCC) in January and that funding was being applied for in order that the consultants could complete the draft.

#### **23/24.65.7      Resources Committee**

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr Orange noted that funding requests had been agreed for the Men's Shed ventilation, the pathway from Mayes Lane carpark to Bowling & Tennis Pavilions and for the subsidence at the rear of the Tennis Court.

#### **23/24.66          Website Update**

The Clerk advised that the site maps had been sent off for both websites

#### **23/24.67          Working Parties**

It was agreed that Cllrs Berlyn, Hessing and Orange would be on the Leases Working Party and that Cllrs Hallett, Hessing and Naggs would be on the Grants Working Party

#### **23/24.68          Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

Cllr Armstrong outlined the process that had been undertaken between Danbury and Little Baddow with respect to submitting an application to Natural England to request that an area of around 9,000 acres – from A414 to East of Little Baddow and from the southern boundary of Danbury to the River Chelmer – to considered as an official candidate for review in order to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Cllr Armstong advised that the review process would take at least 3 years and during the course of the review Natural England would carry out consultations in the local area. One of the benefits of the application is that it is viewed favourably when applying for grants.

A copy of the application, once completed, would be circulated to members and it was agreed that this item would be added to the January 2024 Parish Council meeting agenda in order that the councillors could vote on whether it wished to support the application.

Official thanks were passed to Cllr Armstrong and the team working on the application

#### **23/24.69          Hammonds Road Campaign**

Following discussion in relation to the potential 4,000 plus homes and infrastructure that could be built if CCC choose the Hammonds Road site as an area of development, it was agreed that the Parish Council support Little Baddow Parish Council in their objections to the development. Clerk was requested to inform Little Baddow Parish Council. Cllr Armstrong did not take part in the debate or the voting.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council would support Little Baddow Parish Council in their objections to the development of the Hammonds Road site, proposed by Cllr Hessing and seconded by Cllr Berlyn, agreed

#### **23/24.70          Reports from Village Organisations**

Cllr Sutton advised that the Remembrance Parade had been well attended and noted that there had been some discussion over the possibility of road closure for next year

It was noted that Mr Mark Scofield is the new Chair of the Danbury Society

#### **23/24.71          Community Engagement**

The Christmas events, the new bleed kits available in the village and support for the objection to the Hammond Road site development will be in the January edition of the Focus

**23/24.72        Matters for Report (for information only)**

Cllr Hessing noted that there did not appear to be screening around the solar farm site as per their planning conditions which she would refer to Planning

Cllr Armstrong noted that a bleed kit had been provided to the Leisure Centre

Cllr G Chapman noted that Footpaths 1 and 4 which run near the solar farm would be checked for accessibility

**23/24.73        Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with S.1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that in view of the nature of the business to be discussed it is in the opinion of the Parish Council advisable that the Public and Press be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw, proposed by Cllr Hessing and seconded by Cllr G Chapman, all agreed

**23/24.74        Update on employment matters**

The Clerk provided an update

**23/24.60        Dates of next meeting**

Thursday 14 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 6.30pm

Wednesday 31 January 2024 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.36pm.

Chairman        .....

Date            .....